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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 OES-07
ACDA-12 PRS-01 DLOS-09 /104 W
----------087019 220406Z /12
R 220045Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3671
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 15481

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PGOV, JA, CH, UR
SUBJECT: MORE SOVIET-JAPANESE MANEUVERING ON FISHERIES

REF: TOKYO 15990

SUMMARY: IN OCT. 20 TASS ARTICLE, SOVIETS HAVE PUBLICIZED GENERAL TERMS OF UNSIGNED SOVIET-JAPANESE FISHERIES PROTOCOL RECENTLY NEGOTIATED IN MOSCOW. SOVIETS REJECTED JAPANESE REQUEST TO INITIAL PROTOCOL FIRST AND NEGOTIATE QUOTAS LATER. NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO RESUME IN MOSCOW NOV. 10. SOVIET POSTURE SEEMS GEARED TO CAPITALIZE ON OBVIOUS JAPANESE DISADVANTAGES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, TO MAINTAIN LEVERAGE ON TOKYO RE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY SIGNING, WHILE AT SAME TIME TO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS FROM AGAIN FEEDING ANTI-SOVIET SENTIMENT IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

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1. OCTOBER 20 TASS TICKER ITEM ANNOUNCED THAT SOVIET AND JAPANESE HAVE "REACHED AGREEMENT ON PROLONGING FOR ANOTHER YEAR" THE TWO PROVISIONAL AGREEMENTS REACHED IN MAY AND AUGUST. TASS ARTICLE QUOTES SOVIET MINISTRY OF FISHING REPRESENTATIVE AS SAYING THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO PROLONG THE AGREEMENTS WITHOUT CHANGES. ARTICLE STATES THAT: "OFFICIAL TALKS ARE TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER ON THE BASIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED

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BY THE EXPERTS WITH THE AIM OF SIGNING A PROTOCOL ON PROLONGING THE INTERIM AGREEMENTS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, LETTERS WILL BE EXCHANGED ON QUOTAS AND MEASURES TO REGULATE FISHING INCLUDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE TERMS AND AREAS OF FISHING, THE NUMBER OF SHIPS, THE SPECIES COMPOSITION OF CATCH, SOVIET EXPERTS HOPE THAT THE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF COOPERATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCUMULATED, WILL HELP THE SIDES FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLE OF BALANCED FISHING INTERESTS."

2. ARTICLE THEN REPORTS FISHING MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS:

- EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER "REPEATED CASES" OF JAPANESE FISHING VIOLATIONS IN SOVIET COASTAL WATERS;

- NOTING THAT VIOLATIONS "MAY CAUSE UNDESIRABLE COMPLICATIONS IN RESOLVING PRACTICAL ISSUES IN THE FORTHCOMING PERIOD";

- CONCLUDING WITH "HOPE THAT THE GOOD TRADITIONS OF COOPERATION OF SOVIET AND JAPANESE FISHERMEN RELATIONS WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE HELP IN A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS IN THE FIELD OF FISHING".

3. JAPANESE EMBOFF TELLS US THAT JAPANESE AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS HAD AGREED NOT TO PUBLICIZE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO SIGNING. SOURCE ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SOVIET REJECTION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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OCTOBER 20 OF JAPANESE REQUEST TO INITIAL RECENTLY-NEGOTIATED PROTOCOL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENT BY JAPANESE DIET. SOVIETS INSIST THAT, AS WITH PROVISIONAL AGREEMENTS, AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SETTING QUOTAS BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SIGNING OF PROTOCOL. SOURCE STATED THAT JAPANESE HAD HOPED TO SIGN PROTOCOL FIRST AND THEN TO PUSH HARD FOR HIGHER QUOTAS TO BE SET DOWN IN A SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE SOVIETS, SOURCE COMMENTED, KNEW THIS AND, GIVEN STRONG SOVIET BARGAINING POSITION ("WE JAPANESE CATCH THREE TIMES MORE FISH IN THEIR WATERS"), THE JAPANESE WILL NOW BE IN A WEAKER POSITION IN THE QUOTA NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS: SOURCE SAID THAT JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS WILL FLY BACK TO TOKYO OCTOBER 22 AND RETURN TO MOSCOW ON NOVEMBER 10 FOR TALKS ON (A) QUOTAS TO BE LINKED WITH ALREADY-AGREED PROTOCOL, AND (B) A NEW LONG TERM AGREEMENT ON FISHING ON THE OPEN SEAS TO REPLACE 1956 TREATY DUE TO EXPIRE IN APRIL, 1978. SOURCE STILL EXPECTS THAT THE AGREED PROTOCOL AND QUOTA LEVELS WILL BE SIGNED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. SOURCE NOTED THAT SOVIET CONCERNS OVER PEACE AND FRIEND-
SHIP TREATY (PFT) COULD BE CONTRIBUTING TO SOVIET REJECTION
OF JAPANESE SUGGESTION TO SIGN FIVE -INSTEAD OF ONE - YEAR PROTOCOL.
HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE STORMY
SESSIONS LAST MAY HAVE BEEN "COMPLETELY BUSINESSLIKE" AND
DEVOID OF POLITICAL OVERTONES. SOVIET NEGOTIATORS FORMALLY
REJECTED JAPANESE REQUEST FOR FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT ON BASIS
THAT EVENTUAL LOS TREATY COULD CONFLICT WITH AGREEMENT'S
PROVISIONS.

6. COMMENT: TO DATE, SOVIET POSTURE IN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS
SEEM DESIGNED TO:

- CAPITALIZE ON OBVIOUS JAPANESE DISADVANTAGES IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS.
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- MAINTAIN (PRIMARILY THROUGH INSISTENCE ON SHORT TERM AGREEMENTS) SOME LEVERAGE ON THE JAPANESE WITH RESPECT TO PFT SIGNING.

- AT SAME TIME ATTEMPT TO PREVENT NEGOTIATIONS FROM AGAIN BECOMING A RALLYING POINT FOR ANTI-SOVIET RESENTMENT IN JAPAN BY KEEPING NEGOTIATIONS LOW PROFILE, "BUSINESSLIKE" AND IN TECHNICAL CHANNELS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 815906
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE SOVIET-JAPANESE MANEUVERING ON FISHERIES
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PGOV, JA, CH, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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